

9 November 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Priority National Intelligence Objectives

1. The basic document, dated 14 October, and the change sheet dated 5 November, constitute the annual revision of the Priority National Intelligence Objectives. On their approval by the USIB, the several IB subcommittees will be called upon to revise the appropriate Annexes prior to publication of the revision as a whole.

2. The insertion of a new third paragraph in the introduction was made to counteract an existing tendency to claim a first priority collection effort for any item of information which could be related to a first priority subject, regardless of actual need. It was agreed that this tendency is an abuse of the system, but was held that it could not be controlled administratively without some such statement by the USIB as that proposed.

3. It is generally agreed that some restriction on the implementation of item 1 f (p. 3), relating to Soviet activities in

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space, is required. The Assistant Director, Scientific Intelligence, would accomplish this by adding the words "insofar as they have a major effect on the political, economic, or military stature of the USSR." (See his memo on the subject). This proposal was presented to the USIB representatives, who rejected it as too inclusive to be effective. They preferred a GMAIC proposal to add the words "for military purposes." The Air Force and Joint Staff representatives, however, would retain the original unqualified language, relying on the new paragraph 3 of the introduction to control the situation. The Board deferred to GMAIC as the party primarily concerned. If you adopt the AD/SI proposal, the Board would recommend deletion of the word "economic" as unnecessary and possibly confusing.

4. The decision regarding I f will automatically settle the issue appearing in II e as revised.

5. No other substantial issue is likely to be raised in USIB consideration.

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES:

ABBOT SMITH
Acting Chairman